ryots, they would have categorically stated even in this clause that they will only contest on behalf of the ryots and not on behalf of the inamdars. Unless and until they definitely say this in the clause itself, we have only to take it that they are only keen on helping the landlords and inamdars. This is an atrocious clause and should not remain as it is. Probably, the Government want to hide this clause by some other clause which rather seems to help the ryots. For instance, there is the clause relating to the communal lands and the Government say that in respect of these, they will help the ryots. Whatever may be their intentions, I want that the Government must specifically, categorically and definitely say even in the clause itself that they will contest only on behalf of and in favour of the ryots.''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' The hon. Member may continue his speech later on. Now the Half-hour debate will commence.''

IV.—HALF-HOUR DEBATE ON THE CANCELLATION OF TEACHERS' [a]CERTIFICATES IN MALABAR.

SRI T. C. NARAYAN NAMBIAR :—'' Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the Hon. the Chief Minister as well as the Hon. the Minister for Education for the assurance that the question of restoring the cancelled and suspended certificates would be most sympathetically considered. However, the Chief Minister intervening during question hour said that short of giving subsistence allowance to the Communist teachers, everything possible will be done to do justice. By this answer, an impression was created that we on this side of the House as well as the public, the democratic public, demand the restoration of the certificates because these are Communist workers and we want them to do Communist work. I urge and request the Government to do justice not only to the Communist teachers but to all teachers. It is not a case of Communists versus the Government. It is a question of Government versus democratic opinion. This was the position during the period 1948–49 in Malabar and in other parts of the State. In this connection, I want to invite the attention of the Hon. Minister to one other fact. If the Minister feels that it was due to the so-called Communist trouble in 1948–49 in North Malabar that the certificates were suspended, I most earnestly ask him why was it that certificates of some 100 teachers of Palghat and Walluvanad were suspended where no public meetings were held, where no Communist agitation was taking place and where no peasant trouble started in 1948–52. You may ask, Sir, why these hundred certificates were cancelled and suspended. The main reason is on March 8, 1948, the Malabar aided elementary school teachers met in conference at Tirur in South Malabar and passed a resolution that though the Government had passed orders in 1947 that the teachers would be given the minimum scale it was not

1–30 p.m.

[a] See Starred question No. 940 answered on 24th July 1953. The Half-hour debate was cancelled on 25th July 1953 but is since taken up to-day.

given and that they in consequence had resolved to go on strike with effect from 15th June 1948. It was on communication of this resoluton that the Government wanted to see that the teachers' movement was crushed and, Sir, if you see the names of teachers whose certificates were suspended or cancelled, you will find that most of them were either the Presidents or the Secretaries or Vice-Presidents or treasurers or members of the executive committees of the various branch unions of the Malabar Teachers' Union. The Hon. the Chief Minister was saying that if we stood on technical grounds, probably all the applications might be dismissed. From this I understand that the Government are not going to stick to technicalities. But there is another danger in this. Why I say technicalities have to be adhered to is this. There is, for example, Section 154 of the Madras Educational Rules. That is the only safety valve; that is the only safety section in the rules under which the teacher can claim some security of tenure against the bureaucratic deputy inspector, the District Eduacational Officer and the Director of Public Insrtuction. Nearly 600 certificates have been suspended and not one teacher was asked to explain why his certificate should not be suspended or cancelled. According to the rule, the manager or the deputy inspector should report to the Director of Public Instructon about the particular teachers against whom disciplinary proceedings have to be taken and the Director should hold a personal enquiry. Here I can give hundreds of instances where so many villagers and co-workers of the teachers had said that the teachers under suspension were the best teachers and not at all guilty. The pupils, the parents, the managers, the co-workers and the villagers all said that the teacher was not guilty and yet the Divisional Inspector at Coimbatore and the Director of Public Instruction at Madras who are hundreds of miles away from Malabar said that he was unfit. Because these things were done unjustly I request that the certificates should be given back unconditionally.

"I have one thing to say about the procedure adopted. It was in June 1948 that most of the certificates were cancelled. On the 22nd July, a conference was held in Kozhikode over which Mr. K. Kelappan, President of the Malabar Provincial Congress Committee presided, and a resolution was passed that the cancellation was indiscriminate in that even Congress teachers were involved. Sir, during the last Budget session, I drew the attention of the Government to the fact that even certificates of non-teachers were suspended and cancelled. (Laughter.) It will be seen from the notification issued in 1948 that the certificate of one K. Ambukutti Master was suspended. He was never a teacher and how could a thing that does not exist be cancelled? Why I say all this is to show that the whole thing has been done indiscriminately without going into the facts of the case. With regard to the restoration of certificates some of those teachers who were asked to go to the landholders or the police or village magistrates for getting conduct certificates were restored their

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certificates. When this gross injustice was brought to the notice of the Government as well as the Education Minister in 1951, a G.O. was sent—No. 2700-B/51-2, dated 19th April 1951—by which a Police constable should report to the educational authorities whether the teacher is good or bad. Sir, it is on this order that so many police constables have been going to the villages and I need not say what they will do when they have got such an authority. I do not understand why the police constables and sub-inspectors are empowered to report about a teacher. We speak of sanctity and purity of education and educational authorities and I am shocked and surprised to see that the police officers are given powers to report on the teachers' conduct and that too at their back without any enquiry whatsoever.

"I am glad, Sir, that the Government and the Education Minister in particular are considering very seriously how these things could be done. I know some arrangements have to be made and it is not my duty to say what they are . . . "

MR. SPEAKER :—"The hon. Member's time is up. I have already allowed him ten minutes. Mr. Lakshminarayana Reddi will speak."

* SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter should be seriously considered by the Government. These certificates were cancelled when the Government took repressive measures against progressives, the teachers who remained in villages and who remained in schools. They did not identify themselves with any political party but they appeared as progressives as others. These were booked by the Police and the Divisional Inspectors; they reported that they were communists or had some association with the Communist Party. This is not correct and afterwards, after cancellation of their certificates worst things happened. It is not only in Malabar, but in Anantapur and Cuddapah districts also that these things happened. Many teachers had no association with either the Communist Party or the Rightist or Leftist or any Radical Party. Still their certificates were cancelled. After consideration Government restored a few certificates. What the teachers represented to the authorities, what they represented to the representatives of the people is that all the certificates should be restored. It is the elementary right of the teachers; no Government, no sane Government could refuse to consider this request. It was a political conspiracy. If you go to other countries, you can see how teachers are treated there, whether teachers are suspected as in India. During 1949–50 the teachers had no right to teach boys in the nights. They were watched by the C.I.D. The teacher was booked as Communist. Education was denied to many thousands during that period. The teachers were punished for their progressive ideas. I request Government to consider the cases in Anantapur, Cuddapah and other districts and see that the certificates cancelled are restored.

1-40 p.m.

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"Certificates were also cancelled because the teachers were associated with the Teachers' Federation. The Federation had done something to unite the teachers and strengthen their organisation. It was a genuine attempt. There is one case in my own district where for joining the Federation, the Secretary of the District Teachers' Federation was dismissed. I expect even now the Government which has Rajaji at its head will discontinue such things, give the teachers freedom to join the Federation and to help the progress of the country and the students. Let not repressive steps be adopted by this Government; let the certificates be restored and the dismissed teachers reinstated in service."

III.—GOVERNMENT BILLS—*cont.*

(6) THE MADRAS PRESERVATION OF PRIVATE FORESTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1953—*cont.*

MR. SPEAKER :—"I shall now announce the names of Members of the Select Committee appointed to consider the Madras Preservation of Private Forests (Amendment) Bill 1953 :—

(1) The Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu Naicker.

(2) The Hon. Sri K. P. Kuttikrishnan Nair.

(3) Sri N. Gopala Menon.

(4) Sri K. Venkatramana Gowda.

(5) Sri A. Appu.

(6) Sri Y. Manjaya Shetty.

(7) Sri E. K. Sankaravarma Raja.

(8) Sri T. Anantha Pai.

(9) Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar.

(10) Sri K. C. Gopalan Unni.

(11) Sri R. Krishnan.

(12) Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar.

(13) Sri M. Narayana Kurup.

(14) Sri P. Kunhirama Kidavu.

(15) Sri S. S. Kolkebail.

This was accepted by the House unanimously.

MR. SPEAKER :—"I now appoint the Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu Naicker, the Minister for Revenue to be the Chairman of the Committee."

IV.—HALF-HOUR DEBATE ON CANCELLATION OF TEACHERS' CERTIFICATES IN MALABAR—*cont.*

* SRI N. SIVARAMI REDDI :—"Sir, in Andhra Desa, the teachers have got their own organization called the Teachers' Federation and also their own paper called the Upadyaya. But the local authorities have always discriminated and they have

issued orders that whoever subscribed for this Upadyaya and this organization will be punished. They have called for the explanations of teachers who worked as office bearers or held posts in this organization. They were also punished. Thereupon, the Teachers' Federation filed a suit against this high-handedness in the High Court and the High Court also upheld the cause of the teachers by ordering that a teacher cannot be punished because he is a member of the Teachers' Federation. Not only in Malabar but in Andhra also, Government have taken action against the teachers merely for being office-bearers in this organization.

"According to rule 154 the Madras Educational Rules, if any action is to be taken against the teacher, an explanation has to be called for, but even this rule framed by the Government is violated by the Government in practice. There are many people in Cuddapah district who have lost their certificates, viz., Vijayaramaraju, Rosi Reddi, Sanjeeva Reddi and Lakshmi Reddi. I request the Government who say that they are pursuing a liberal policy to come forward and see that the lost certificates are immediately restored to the teachers."

* THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, it is stated that the discussion is with reference to the cancellation of certificates of some teachers for political reasons. About 398 certificates were suspended and 200 of them were restored till February 1953. Since then we have been trying to follow a very liberal policy, as I have already stated, in the matter. Most of these certificates cancelled were in Malabar, that is the Coimbatore Educational Division. About 343 were from the Division of Coimbatore. Now during the last two or three months, we have been getting information from the various districts and we are trying to restore as many as possible. We are still in the process of getting information.

"With regard to the history of this question, I wish to clarify one or two things raised by Mr. Nambiar. He has made an allegation that these certificates were not cancelled for any real reason involving law and order, but merely because they were members of an organization, etc. I wish to state . . . "

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Sir, it is not an allegation. I can produce even copies of the proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction in which it was stated 'teachers having communistic ideas'. I do not know how these ideas are understood by the Director of Public Instruction." 1-50 p.m.

* THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, in accordance with G.O. No. 1855 of 1950, only the Inspector-General of Police was asked to report to the Education Department cases where there were convictions. There was no interference by the Police Department in the Education Department as such, as has

been alleged. The hon. Member will not expect the Government to give a guarantee that the Police Department will not take cognizance of any activities of any citizen which are of subversive nature, be he a teacher or any other person. We have to maintain law and order irrespective of the fact whether he is a teacher or any other person. In no case will a person, whether he is a teacher or otherwise, be allowed to utilize his position for any subversive activities. Some years ago, it so happened that a large number of teachers for participation in subversive activities were duly convicted in courts of law and in those cases their certificates were cancelled. (Interruption by Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar.) Please let me have my say. Sir, in such cases alone, certificates were cancelled without the usual formality of framing charges and conducting an enquiry. In all other cases the Education Department itself framed charges and cancelled certificates after conducting an enquiry. Subsequently, so far as the organization is concerned, the Government have passed an order permitting teachers the freedom to join any organization and that cannot be ignored by this House. I find the hon. Member has conveniently chosen to ignore that order. I wish to submit, Sir, that the freedom of organization should not be utilized in any manner to subserve in subversive activities. When subversive activities are undertaken, it is the department dealing with law and order that will have to deal with it."

Sri N. SIVARAMI REDDI :—" On a point of information, Sir."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" The Hon. Minister is not yielding."

* The Hon. Dr. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, I wish to emphasize that according to the present policy of the Government, the teachers are free to organize themselves. There is no ban against the Federation and I myself declared open a conference of the Federation in Kakinada where the teachers from Andhra met. In spite of that, statements have been made that the Federation is being treated in a partial manner and that the Government are opposed to it. Nobody is penalized to-day because he is a member of the Federation. If in any particular case there is adequate ground for any disciplinary action to be taken against a teacher in a particular place, that should not be mixed up with this and an allegation made against the Government that we are interfering with the freedom of organization. So far as certificates are concerned, for certain reasons at a particular time they were cancelled. Now we are trying to take the assurances of the hon. Members of the various political parties and of the organizations at their full value and we are trying to follow a liberal policy. In fact, wherever there is no direct knowledge that a person is still involved in subversive activities or where a person has not been guilty of anything involving moral turpitude of a very serious nature, a very liberal policy is sought to be followed and it will be for the Government to restore as many certificates as possible,

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if only for one reason, to give an opportunity to the teachers concerned to resume their normal duties as teachers. In this connection, I wish to submit that while freedom of organization is guaranteed to the teachers, it should also follow that in the interests of the general weal of the country, the society and the teachers themselves, they should not allow themselves to become in any manner tools in any subversive activity and become whole-time political workers of parties which are likely—I am not referring to any particular party—to involve them in troubles. That is the view I expressed when I went to Malabar and Kakinada to meet the teachers. Therefore, Sir, the police do not interfere with nor do they consult the Education Department. In cases of positive conviction alone, the Police Department was giving information at that time. Therefore, Sir, in the interests of education itself and in the interests of the teachers, the students and the society as a whole, I have to submit to this Hon. House, that parties leave the teachers alone and do not involve them in very active politics which may sometimes land them in troubles for which they will have naturally to take the entire responsibility. The sufferers will be the teachers. Education also will suffer a set-back. Therefore, I take this opportunity to appeal to all members that the teachers may be left to do their teaching duties unimpeded. So far as the Government are concerned, as I have already stated, we will follow a very liberal policy and will try to restore as many certificates as possible taking the assurances given at their full value."

MR. SPEAKER :—"The House will now adjourn and meet again at 8-30 a.m. to-morrow."

The House then adjourned.

வாய்மையே வெல்லும்
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS